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(*c*) whether any alternative employment is proposed to be provided for the rickshaw-pullers?

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN : (*a*) No, Sir.

(*b*) There are 3,750 hand-pulled rickshaws and 3,591 rickshaw-pullers.

(*c*) This question does not arise at present.

* 2457 *Q.*—SRI A. RATNAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Religious Endowments and Transport be pleased to state with reference to the answer given to question No. 589, dated 10th February 1955—

(*a*) the number of cycle-rickshaws registered after 30th September 1954 up-to-date for the year 1955–56;

(*b*) why the seating capacity of the cycle-rickshaws was fit only for a single person with the 20 inches width by inside measurement; and

(*c*) how many cycle-rickshaws were refused registration up-to-date which did not satisfy the specification imposed by the Commissioner of Police in the absence of availability of variable gear for cycle-rickshaws in the market?

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN : (*a*) One thousand.

(*b*) The seating capacity has been reduced to avoid the carrying of two passengers.

(*c*) None, Sir.

* 2458 *Q.*—SRI N. K. PALANISAMY : Will the Hon. the Minister for Religious Endowments and Transport be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether there is any proposal to abolish rickshaws in the City of Madras by April 1957;

(*b*) if so, the methods by which this process is to be completed, and

(*c*) whether it is to be extended throughout the State?

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN : (*a*) No, Sir.

(*b*) & (*c*) Do not arise.

SRI K. R. SAMBANDAM : Sir, we have the S.P.C.A. to prevent the use of sick animals and that is the protection with reference to animals; but with regard to human beings there seems to be nobody to champion their cause. Would Government take necessary steps?

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN : "Champion the cause" in what respect, Sir?

SRI K. R. SAMBANDAM : To prevent hand-pulling of rickshaws.